

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

October 28, 2008; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Draft Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM in the Conference Room at the General Services Department Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Councilor Bill Stetson, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Melanie Doiron, Paula Mattis, Councilor Rob Werner (present via conference call)

Staff: Chip Chesley, Vanessa Ghiden, Pat Winn, Bob McManus

Guests: Mayor Bouley, Tom Aspell, Jim Howard

Absent: Greg Banks, Mike Russell, Jeff Meyers

Councilor Nyhan convened the meeting at 4:15 PM and did a roll call of members. He then asked Chip to take up the first item on the agenda.

Program Discussions to Date.- Leaf Collection Alternatives

Chip distributed a handout which summarized four options. The options reviewed included:

1. Stay the Course (ie no change in service levels),
2. Weekly trash collection with no recycling and no yard waste collection,
3. Pay As You Throw with weekly recycling and no yard waste collection,
4. Pay As You Throw with weekly recycling and yard waste collection in biodegradable bags.

The handout described the services provided for each option in detail, listed pros and cons and then had a financial analysis for each option. Councilor Nyhan explained that the handout includes key pieces of information that the committee has discussed regarding leaf and yard waste collection and will help the group make a decision regarding leaf and yard waste. He further noted that this is not the spreadsheet that the Mayor Boulay had requested at last week's meeting but the spreadsheet is being worked on by staff. The committee reviewed the handout and discussed how leaf and yard waste collection and disposal currently works. Committee members asked if the City could secure less yard waste than included in the full yard waste program proposal (6 weeks in the fall, 6 weeks in the spring, and no yard waste collection during the summer). Councilor Nyhan

requested Chip to explain how this would be a reduction in service. Chip stated residents can currently place up to five bags of yard waste at the curb weekly along with their solid waste; however, the State has revised its law which will prohibit leaf and yard waste disposal at the Penacook Waste to Energy Facility in July, 2009. Hence, it will be necessary to provide a separate leaf and yard waste collection program in the summer to replicate the existing service levels currently enjoyed by Concord residents. Tom noted that yard waste collection is an issue for the urban core such as the south end of the City. Committee members then discussed charging a fee for the leaf and yard waste biodegradable bags as a means to raise revenues to offset the increased cost. Staff noted that the leaf and yard waste collection costs for the proposed program are included in the current financial model.

Mayor Bouley reviewed the handout with the committee and reminded the members that Concord residents must hear and understand that doing nothing will increase taxes or cut other services. Councilor Keach noted that yard waste collection will be seen as an increase in services. Chip reviewed the change in law which will eliminate our resident's ability to place up to five bags of leaf and yard waste at the curb that can be disposed along with their waste at the Penacook Waste to Energy Facility. Next July this option will not be available so a separate leaf and yard waste program is needed. Committee members noted that this point must be clearly articulated.

Councilor Nyhan conducted a poll of the committee members to assess their position relative to the options considered by the group. The majority supported Pay As You Throw. Since leaf and yard waste are being treated as a recyclable, each member supported revenues derived through a Pay As You Throw program help to defray the cost of the City providing a separate yard waste collection program as well.

Needs Based Matters

Chip reviews with the group a page of notes on a Needs Based program. He noted that staff has discussed the matter with the City's Human Resources Director, Jackie Whatmough, who provided the following information:

- One way of determining need would be proof that the household is receiving food stamps.
- Currently there are 1405 households in Concord receiving this benefit.

Councilor Nyhan asks that staff come back with one to three options of how a needs based program would work. Councilor Werner suggests that staff look at NH cities such as Dover to see what they do and look nationally using resources such as the League of Cities.

Communications

Councilor Nyhan invites members to join the Communication Subcommittee. This subcommittee will work with staff to communicate with residents. Councilor Lemieux, Jeffrey Meyers, Councilor Werner, Melanie Doiron and Keith Nyhan are members of the subcommittee. The Communication subcommittee will meet on November 7, 2008 at 12:00, a brown bag lunch meeting. Councilor Blanchard confirmed that the committee is no longer considering the modified program. Chip and Councilor Nyhan described the big spreadsheet that staff will be preparing for committee members.

Councilor Werner stated the Energy & Environment Committee supports Pay As You Throw. (He is a member of the Energy & Environment Committee.) He noted that the Energy and Environment Committee supports the reduction of solid waste which reduces greenhouse gases. The Energy & Environment Committee will support Solid Waste Advisory Committee with launching Pay As You Throw including assisting with communicating the environmental and energy benefits of the program to residents.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2008 at 4:15PM.
The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.